GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:362
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
STATUS OF AGNI-II AND LAKSHYA
C. KUPPUSAMI;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Agni-II Missile and the pilotless Lakshya/Nishant were test flown last and the results obtained therefrom;

(b) whether these are ready for induction into the Indian Air Force;

(c) if so, the time by which these systems are likely to be made fully operational; and

(d) if not, the status of these projects as on date?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) The second flight test of the Agni-II surface-to-surface missile took place on January 17, 2001 from the DRDO Test Range, in Orissa. The trial was in the operational configuration and mission objectives were fully met. No test flights are planned for the Pilotless Target Aircraft Lakshya, which has been inducted into the Indian Air Force. The Air Force conducted an operational training flight at Balasore on November 11, 2000. Three flights of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for battlefield reconnaissance, Nishant, were performed during the air show organized as part of Aero India 2001 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka during February 7-10, 2001. The flights were successful. The flight envelope and real-time video imagery were seen by the aeronautical experts, both national and international.

(b)to(d): Lakshya has been inducted into the Indian Air Force. Nishant is being developed for the Indian Army and user trials are expected to begin in February, 2001. The production, induction and operationalisation of the Nishant would be taken up after completion of user trials. Limited production of the Agni-II missile has commenced and its induction is planned during 2001-2002.